

Message Text

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EXDIS (SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEE)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS YO US
SUBJ: WESTERN ARMS SALES TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 154598 (PARA 7)

1. SUMMARY: THE FULL EXTENT OF YUGOSLAV ARMS SALES CONTRACTS WITH WESTERN ALLIES CANNOT BE DETERMINED, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THESE CONTACTS ARE NUMEROUS AND ON THE UPSWING. INDICATIONS ARE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE NATO ATTACHES HERE ARE FULLY COOPERATIVE IN EXCHANGING AND SHARING INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, THERE IS GREAT RELUCTANCE, NO DOUBT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, TO DISCUSS ANYTHING RELATED TO THEIR GOVERNMENT'S ARMS SALES.

3. THE BRITISH ARE VERY TIGHT-LIPPED, BUT THE OBVIOUSLY CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS OF THEIR ATTACHES WITH YUGOSLAV PROCUREMENT OFFICIALS AND THE FREQUENCY OF OFFICIAL MILITARY EXCHANGE VISITS INVARIABLY INVOLVING MEMBERS OF THE PROCUREMENT DIRECTORATE SUGGEST A HIGH LEVEL OF ARMS SALES INTEREST. THE MAJOR ITEM INVOLVED IS MOST LIKELY THE ROLLS-ROYCE VIPER ENGINE TO POWER THE YUGOSLAV-
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BELGRA 04803 160820Z

PRODUCED JET FIGHTER, THE ORAO.

4. WHILE THE FRENCH TOO ARE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS ABOUT ARMS SALES, THEY READILY TOLD US THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE RECENTLY CONTACTED THEM ON A WIDE RANGE OF EQUIPMENT ITEMS. GOF DILEMMA IS SIMILAR TO OURS: TO WHAT TECHNOLOGICAL AND CLASSIFICATION LEVEL CAN THEY

ACCOMMODATE GOY? HELICOPTER SALES - ALOUETTE AND SUPER PUMA - SEEM TO BE THE MAJOR ITEMS. THE EXOCET MISSILE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR A LONG TIME BY THE YUGOSLAVS BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE STYX.

5. THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY THE GOY FOR VARIOUS MILITARY ITEMS, ACCORDING TO THEIR ATTACHE HERE. BUT DUTCH CONCERN ABOUT NATO CLEARANCE POLICY AND OTHER FACTORS RESULTED IN ACROSS THE BOARD TURNDOWNS AND SUBSEQUENT COOLING OF RELATIONS IN GENERAL.

6. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT FRG-GOY ARMS CONTACTS, BUT YUGOSLAVS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CERTAIN MILITARY ITEMS OF FRG MANUFACTURE.

7. IN JUNE, YUGOSLAVS REQUESTED TO PURCHASE SEVERAL 60 TON MISSILE-EQUIPPED ITALIAN NAVY HYDROFOILS BUT WERE TURNED DOWN.

8. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOY OFFICIALS HAD RAISED ARM SALES QUESTIONS WITH BOTH FRANCE AND UK. TITO DISCUSSED MATTER WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND WITH ITALIAN FONMIN FORLANI DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS HERE. THE YUGOSLAV INTEREST IS CLEARLY HIGH LEVEL, AND THEY ARE PUSHING HARD, BUT SEEMINGLY RECEIVING LITTLE.
EAGLEBURGER

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